

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /065 W

-----077448 182204Z /62

R 180903Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7045

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: NDP TO LIFT ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE BOYCOTT

REF: (A) SEOUL 8648; (B) SEOUL 8749

SUMMARY: NDP LIFTED ITS BOYCOTT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SESSIONS ON OCTOBER 18. OPPOSITION EFFECTED SOME COMPROMISES FROM DRP ON PROPOSED NDP LEGISLATION BUT YOUNG TURKS WITHIN NDP ARGUED THEY WERE NOT ENOUGH. END SUMMARY.

1. BY MID-AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 18, NDP FINALLY AGREED WITHIN ITS OWN GENERAL CAUCUS TO LIFT ITS PARTY BOYCOTT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE LEVEL MEETINGS. DRP

SPOKESMAN EARLIER IN DAY ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE OF DRP, YUCHONGHOE AND NDP FLOOR LEADERS AND NDP SENIOR SUPREME COMMITTEE APPROVED PACKAGE SOON AFTER. YOUNG TURKS WITHIN NDP HAD HOPED TO MAKE THEIR POINT THAT NDP HAD NOT PUSHED HARD ENOUGH TO WIN EARLY ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION OF OPPOSITION'S FULL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM.

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2. NDP CHAIRMAN YI CHOL-SUNG AND OTHER SENIOR PARTY FIGURES BELIEVE THAT AGREEMENT WITH DRP BROUGHT NDP AT LEAST A SMALL VICTORY. FOR INSTANCE, DRP HAS AGREED TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE TAX LAW CHANGE THIS SESSION. EARLIER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NAM TOK-U HAD PUBLICLY STATED THAT ANY CHANGES IN TAX LAW WOULD BE MADE AT NEXT ASSEMBLY SESSION (1978) AND NOT NOW.

3. DRP HAS ALSO AGREED TO DISCUSS IN COMMITTEE VARIOUS CHANGES NDP IS PROPOSING IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LAWS. FOR EXAMPLE, NDP WOULD LIKE AMENDMENT TO PRESENT LAW WHICH SPECIFIES THAT ONE THIRD OF ASSEMBLYMEN MAY CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION. NDP PROPOSES ONE FOURTH WHICH WOULD GIVE OPPOSITION CHANCE TO REQUEST SESSION UNILATERALLY. NDP WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INCREASE TOTAL NUMBER AND DURATION OF SPECIAL SESSIONS. AT PRESENT, ASSEMBLY CAN MEET ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DAYS PER YEAR ONLY.

4. PARTY FLOOR LEADERS ALSO AGREED IN THEIR COMPROMISE TO DISCUSS VALUE ADDED TAX LAW (VAT) AT AN "EARLY DATE" AND TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON SUBJECT. NOTHING HAS YET BEEN AGREED ON NDP PROPOSED BIPARTISAN COMMITTEES TO REVIEW PAK TONG-SON CASE AND YUSIN CONSTITUTION. NDP INSISTS THAT DRP MUST SHOW GOOD FAITH IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THESE PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEES. FLOOR LEADERS ALSO AGREED THAT PARTYS WOULD CONSIDER AT LATER DATE PROPOSED CHANGES TO ELECTION LAWS AND LAWS AFFECTING DEMONSTRATIONS AND POPULAR ASSEMBLY.

5. WHEN DRP SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED ORIGINAL AGREEMENT TO PRESS, HE NOTED GRUMPILY THAT "DRP HAD MADE TOO MANY CONCESSIONS." ACTUALLY, NDP DID WIN AT LEAST MINOR VICTORY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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